



# News Release

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## **‘Seattle Mama Doc’ receives CDC Childhood Immunization Champion award**

*Dr. Wendy Sue Swanson recognized for her work protecting children*

**OLYMPIA** — The first-ever CDC Childhood Immunization Champion award has gone to Dr. Wendy Sue Swanson, pediatrician and author of the [Seattle Mama Doc Blog](#) for Seattle Children’s Hospital. This is one of 39 Champion awards given by U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to honor advocates who work to make sure kids are protected by immunizations.

“This honors a very deserving champion,” said State Health Officer Dr. Maxine Hayes, who presented the award. “Dr. Swanson is revolutionizing communication between health care providers and parents. Recently, she offered her readers a [sample e-mail](#) ([seattlemamadoc.seattlechildrens.org/cocoon-a-newborn-only-an-email-away/](mailto:seattlemamadoc.seattlechildrens.org/cocoon-a-newborn-only-an-email-away/)) that parents can send to family and friends asking them to be vaccinated before seeing their new baby. That’s public health in action.”

Dr. Swanson has more than 100,000 visits to [her blog each year](#) ([seattlemamadoc.seattlechildrens.org/](http://seattlemamadoc.seattlechildrens.org/)). She answers questions from parents about all aspects of parenting in an easy-to-understand style.

Dr. Hayes said that it’s crucial that parents protect newborns from diseases like whooping cough, which is at epidemic levels in Washington this year. Four babies have died from whooping cough (pertussis) in Washington in the past two years. Dozens more have been hospitalized.

“As a pediatrician and a mother, I know that childhood immunization is one of the best ways to keep our kids healthy,” said Dr. Swanson. “Parents want to do what’s right for their children. Open communication between parents and doctors – especially on issues like vaccination – is extremely important. I am thrilled to have been selected for this award and feel so honored.”

— More —

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[CDC Childhood Immunization Champions](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/champions) (<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/champions>) were selected from among health care professionals, coalition members, child care workers, school nurses, parents, and other immunization leaders as having made a significant contribution. State Immunization Programs coordinated the nomination process and notified CDC of their recommendations. Many awards were presented during the last week of April as part of National Infant Immunization Week.

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